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Mr. Thomas Ferns  
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I ask for your support to save Hanford Reach and contiguous public lands along the Columbia River in Washington State as a National Wildlife Refuge. Those lands are part of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation but will be returned to public use.

I want to save that area for all usually expressed reasons: Saving the Chinook salmon that spawn there and constitute some 80-90% of the present Columbia River Chinook run; and the wildflowers and the wildlife there.

More than that, Hanford Reach is a national treasure just as much as the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, and Sequoia National Park. Hanford Reach on the Columbia River is one of the only two remaining free-flowing stretches of major rivers still left in the western USA, and both are of Lewis and Clark fame. All others are simply a series of backwater lakes behind dams.

Last June I did a 5-day canoe trip down the other free flowing river, the wild and scenic Upper Missouri River below Ft. Benton, Montana. It was a memorable trip with three of my children and two friends, an experience words are inadequate to describe, an experience that needs to be lived to be fully appreciated. It was not just the river; it was the backcountry.

We should save Hanford Reach for the same reasons and I ask for your support.



Al Hanners